

Signed at Washington, D.C. on July 2, 1998.

Raymond Uhalde,

*Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for
Employment and Training.*

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Dialogue on Unemployment Insurance Reform; Notice of Public Meetings

When President Clinton signed his 1999 budget proposals, he set in motion a reform of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. On March 13, 1998, Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman announced a "Dialogue" to examine the UI program and the related Employment Service (IES) program in light of a changing economy. The framework for the "Dialogue" was set forth in the Dialogue Paper which has been mailed to stakeholders and other interested parties. This paper can also be found on the Internet at www.dol.gov. The "Dialogue" will allow interested parties to comment on a broad array of questions about the programs' effectiveness and will take place over the next year through several venues and forums, i.e., stakeholders meetings, public meetings. Major "Dialogue" issues for discussion include:

Individual Economic Adjustment: How well does the UI program help individuals unemployment workers by providing adequate financial resources and promoting transition to employment? Who should receive benefits; what kinds of reemployment services should be provided and how could these reemployment services be made more effective?

Macroeconomic Stabilizer: How well does the UI program serve as a counter-cyclical macroeconomic stabilizer—does it serve to stabilize the economy locally, regionally, nationally? How could the program's performance be improved?

Insurance Concepts: How well does the UI program operate in terms of core insurance principles of forward funding, risk pooling, and solvency? How well does the program accumulate resources for payment during periods of economic downturn? How well does the program operate in terms of pooling risks for employers and States? What are the consequences of diverging from these insurance principles?

Financing Benefits: How should the UI benefit financing structure work to assure efficiency, equity and incentives?

To what extent should employer tax rates be based on experience with unemployment? How could employer reporting and record keeping be streamlined?

Financing Administration: How should the administration of the UI and ES programs be financed? How well does the administrative financing system respond to workload changes over the business cycle? How should the administrative financing system encourage efficient and cost-effective operations?

Federal-State System: How should the Federal-State partnership work to assure a basic national UI program that reflects differences among the States? How can the partnership be improved? Are any changes needed in the division of responsibilities, such as financing, benefit structures, or oversight? What should be the relationship between UI and ES? What form should ES take in the future?

Time and Place: Two meetings will be held, the first on August 4, 1998 in Seattle, Washington and the second on August 11, 1998 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Seattle meeting will be held at the Seattle Airport Doubletree Hotel, 18740 Pacific Highway South, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Philadelphia meeting will be held at the Philadelphia Airport Marriott Hotel, Arrivals Road, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. More meetings will be held.

Agenda: Agenda topics include the following:

- (a) Opening remarks—purpose/overview of meeting, introduction of discussion leaders
- (b) Description of Dialogue Issues
- (c) Oral Testimony
- (d) Open discussion of Dialogue Issues
- (e) Closing remarks

Public Participation: The meeting will be open to the public. Seating will be available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. Seats will be reserved for the media. Individuals with disabilities should contact the Regional Coordinators, listed below, if special accommodations are needed. Individuals or organizations wishing to present oral testimony should contact the Regional Coordinator, and those wishing to submit written statements should send five (5) copies to the Regional Coordinator.

For Additional Information Contact: Seattle Coordinators—Larry Heasty and Bill James (206 553-7700), U.S. Department of Labor/ETA, 1111 Third Ave., Suite 900, Seattle WA 98101-3213. Philadelphia Coordinators—Leo Bull (215 596-0778), Rosemary Williams—Raysor (215 596-1411), and

April Hunt (215 596-0789), U.S. Department of Labor/ETA, P.O. Box 8796, Philadelphia, PA 19101

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 30th day of June 1998.

Raymond J. Uhalde,

Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-387 and 50-388]

Pennsylvania Power & Light Company, Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (Units 1 & 2); Confirmatory Order Modifying Licenses Effective Immediately

I

Pennsylvania Power & Light Company, (PP&L or the Licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. NPF-17 and NPF-22, which authorize operation of Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Units 1 and 2, located in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

II

The staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been concerned that Thermo-Lag 330-1 fire barrier systems installed by licensees may not provide the level of fire endurance intended and that licensees that use Thermo-Lag 330-1 fire barriers may not be meeting regulatory requirements. During the 1992 to 1994 time frame, the NRC staff issued Generic Letter (GL) 92-08, "Thermo-Lag 330-1 Fire Barriers" and subsequent requests for additional information that requested licensees to submit plans and schedules for resolving the Thermo-Lag issue. The NRC staff has obtained and reviewed all licensees' corrective plans and implementation schedules. The staff is concerned that some licensees may not be making adequate progress toward resolving the plant-specific issues, and that some implementation schedules may be either too tenuous or too protracted. For example, several licensees informed the NRC staff that their completion dates had slipped by 6 months to as much as 3 years. For plants that have completion action scheduled beyond 1997, the NRC staff has met with the licensees to discuss the progress of the licensees' corrective actions and the extent of licensee management attention regarding completion of Thermo-Lag corrective actions.